

## Making A Difference!

The Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) program is one of the programs offered by Casper's Self Help Center. CORE is a twelve year program that reconnects youth with the natural world and encourages team work, outdoor ethics, and volunteerism.

CORE has become a state wide youth education program. Each year there is a total of 6 trips, four of which occur on BLM administered lands. Trips are normally between three to five days and have approximately 20 participants, ranging from 9 to 17 years of age. These youth volunteers are making a difference to our public lands. They have built trails, maintained campgrounds, and cleared debris from our public lands. The BLM receives over 1,000 hours of in-kind labor annually as part of this summer program. Each trip includes outdoor recreation activities and an environmental education component that exemplifies the "Leave No trace" ethics.

This program is very popular with the local youth and trips fill-up quickly. For more information contact Victor Orr at (307) 235-2814.



*CORE volunteer repair an old bridge on the Middle Fork of the Powder river.*

## Summer Schedule of Events

*National Trails Day, Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>*  
(Muddy Mountain (9:00-3:00))

*Climb for the Cure, Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>*  
(Muddy Mountain (9:00-2:00))

*Platte River Revival, Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>*  
(A National Public Lands Day Event)

*National Public Lands Day, Saturday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>*  
(Muddy Mountain (9:00-2:00))



*Junior ROT C volunteer, helps to remove Russian olives along the North Platte River.*

# CASPER RECREATION NEWS

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Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office

2987 Prospect Drive, Casper, WY 82604

Web site address: [www.blm.gov/wy](http://www.blm.gov/wy) E-mail address: [Casper\\_WYMail@blm.gov](mailto:Casper_WYMail@blm.gov) Phone number: (307) 261-7600

## Note from the Field Manager

Welcome to the 2012 edition of Casper Recreation News. The articles were written to help keep you informed about Public Lands and recreational opportunities in Casper. I hope you find the information helpful, and look forward to any comments or suggestions, you may have.

Enjoy your public lands

Joe Meyer, Casper Field Office

## *New Recreation Opportunities Open along Trapper's Route*

The North Platte River has been in a constant state of flux for the past five years. Tales about the size and abundance of the local trout have spread throughout the Midwest. Articles about the quality of recreation along the central stretch of the North Platte have been published in local newspapers in Colorado, Montana, and Idaho.

These stories have been reflected in our visitor numbers. Each spring anglers from across the nation travel to Wyoming for the opportunity to wet their lines in these waters.

Managing recreation on public lands is a balancing act. Management agencies must provide the infrastructure necessary to meet user expectations, manage the commercial use in such a manner as to support the local economy, and be mindful of the impacts to the natural resources.

This management philosophy has resulted in the construction of new overnight camping facilities and day use areas, along Trapper's Route.

Each new site has its own character and supports differing recreational opportunities. These sites are now available for public use. In addition, the Bureau of Management has purchased private lands and conservation easements to protect open space and natural habitats.

For more information about these opportunities call (307) 261-7600 or visit us online at [http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field\\_offices/Casper/recreation.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Casper/recreation.html)



*Golden Current Campground provides a natural backdrop and a more rustic setting.*





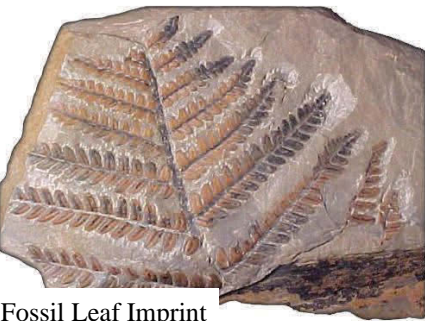
# Rock Hounding

Rockhounding is popular recreational pursuit on public lands. It is embedded in economic and cultural history the state of Wyoming. Visitors are welcomed to collect small, noncommercial quantities of rock from public lands free of charge. You may use hand tools such as shovels and picks,. However, the use of explosives or power equipment is strictly prohibited. Commercial collecting for the purpose of sale or barter is not allowed without special authorization.

Rockhounters are welcome to collect rocks and gemstones from most federal lands. It is a good idea to check land ownership when planning a rockhounding trip and contact your local BLM office for ownerships maps and local regulations pertaining to rock collection.

**Under the Antiquities Act of 1906, meteorites found on BLM land belong to the Smithsonian Institution.**

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 and the Antiquities Act of 1906 are designed to protect our nation’s cultural resources. These laws prohibit the unauthorized excavation, removal, damage or alteration of any archaeological and historical site or object. Petroglyphs, human graves, old dwellings, pottery, stone tools, arrowheads and other remains of Indians and early inhabitants are protected by law because they may provide important links to our past.



Fossil Leaf Imprint

Fossil collecting has its own set of rules. Vertebrate fossils (which includes all bones and teeth) are off limits to rockhounters, but invertebrate and plant fossils that are not of special scientific interest may be collected in reasonable amounts for personal use. No fossils collected from public land can be sold, traded or bartered (*Omnibus Public Land Management Act, 2009*).

# Staking a Claim

Rockhounding on mining claims is not advised without the mining claimant's consent because the claimant has a legal right to the minerals on the claim, including gemstones such as jade. Also a mining claimant may not legally charge the public fees for recreational use of a mining claim such as rock collecting. Mining claims can usually be identified in the field by claim posts or markers, or otherwise, the local BLM offices can explain what areas are likely to have mining claims.

Commonly collected rocks and minerals, referred to as "common variety" are not subject to mining claim location. Stones such as agate, chert, jasper, geodes, and obsidian, as well as cinders and other volcanic products, when used for common purposes are not locatable as a mining claim. The mere fact that some stones may be cut and polished does not give them a distinct or special value to make them locatable.

# Collection Limits

Collecting petrified wood and rocks for landscaping and other personal uses is allowed without a permit, as long as the use is non commercial and no mechanized equipment is used (other than a car or pickup truck). A permit is not needed if you limit your collecting 25 pounds and one rock per day, not to exceed 250 pounds in one calendar year, and no specimen greater than 250 pounds may be collected without a special permit. The material must be for personal use only and shall not be sold or bartered to commercial dealers.



Petrified Wood

Many rockhounding sites require hiking or driving to remote areas where there is a possibility of getting stuck. It is always a good idea to travel in a group and to bring plenty of drinking water with you when traveling. If you must travel alone, be sure to let someone know of your plans. Remember to stay on designated and open roads.

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# The Casper Geology Club

The Casper Geology Club teaches middle school and high school students about geology. Five to seven students attend the club every other week. The club promotes learning through hands-on activities and through experiences.

The spring , summer and fall seasons will include outdoor field trips. These field trips are very popular and activities include looking at outcrops, geocaching, collecting invertebrate fossils, collecting rocks, learning to gold pan, looking at faults, and discussing mineral/oil and gas exploration. The kids learn about the stratigraphic column by looking at the progression of rocks near Casper. At least four adults volunteer their time during each outdoor field trip.

During the winter season activities include: making mineral collections with correct labeling, drawing dinosaurs, learning about fossils, going on mineral/rock scavenger hunts, touring the paleontology lab, and showing off mineral collections by adult volunteers or students.

Each week the club tries to do something different. In 2012 we are planning to take many field trips. Some fieldtrip ideas we have so far are to learn about geology and paleontology at Alcova Reservoir, Pathfinder Reservoir, Glendo Reservoir, Shirley Basin, Ayer’s Natural Bridge, Miracle Mile Hematite Quarry, Muddy Mountain, Hells Half Acre, Independence Rock, and Eadesville on Casper Mountain. At these locations the kids will learn about the rocks and fossils present.

For more information contact the Casper Geology Club Leader, Amber Robbins at (307) 261-7701.

# Your Fee Dollars at Work

The Recreation Business Plan was completed in the fall of 2010. This plan would allow BLM to charge an expanded amenity fee for overnight camping at newly developed campgrounds within the Trapper’s Route Special Recreation Management Area and to administer minor changes to the existing fee structure in the Muddy Mountain Environmental Education Area.

This plan outlines key objective for fee expenditures and provides public accountability. The Notice of Intent is scheduled to be published in the federal register in the spring of 2012 for six months prior to changes being implemented. The plan is available for public review at [http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field\\_offices/Casper/recreation.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Casper/recreation.html).

In accordance, with the Recreation Enhancement Act of 2007, all fees received are to be retained by the field office and are used to improve and expand recreational

opportunities. In 2011, fee dollars helped to fund seasonal staff, maintain projects and complete an interpretive trail for the “Redds”. Interpretation focuses on spawning behavior of trout and the importance the in-stream habitats.

